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A Highland Park physician is the host of a medical program broadcast on XM Satellite radio Channel 157 to help doctors and the public obtain medical and health information.

The most recent program prepared for broadcast on Oct. 11 at Phase Recording Studios, 1350 Old Skokie Road, features an hour-long interview with U.S. Rep. Mark S. Kirk, R-10, of Highland Park.

Dr. Mark Nolan Hill interviewed Kirk on a range of subjects, including: health care policy, Michael Moore's documentary "Sicko", the children's insurance program, diabetes and medical litigation.

"It was exceedingly enlightening and informative," said Hill. "He was very forthright in his opinions. I learned a great deal from him."

Kirk too enjoyed doing the program.

"It was great," Kirk said. "I'm very proud that in Highland Park he has the ability to reach a national audience."

Hill is a surgeon in private practice. He is also professor of surgery at the University of Chicago Medical School.

Hill previously hosted a medical broadcast every day for several years on radio station US99 in Chicago. It was five-minute segments on medical topics of general interest as well as occasional hour-long shows on special subjects. The program he presents now focuses on a specific category of medical issues each month. It started 18 months ago and is broadcast on ReachMD channel 157 of XM Satellite radio. It is called "The Clinicians Roundtable" and is also

available as a downloadable Podcast.

"The goal is not to do sterile interviews. It's to make them conversations. It's to simulate physicians sitting around a table to discuss a medical problem," Hill said.

The doctor and congressman discussed healthcare policy in the United States, including the specifics of insurance companies, small businesses and their premiums, as well as insurance costs for big business and how they affect international marketing.

Kirk expressed strong pro-and-con views on his program, Hill said, about Michael Moore's documentary "Sicko," which contrasts approaches to health care in the United States and other countries such as Canada, Cuba and England. They also discussed the recently vetoed federal legislation to provide insurance to uninsured children. Kirk expects that debate to continue.

"Kirk feels very strongly about it," Hill said, "and is at odds with President (George W.) Bush about it."

Kirk, vice chairman of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, recently participated in the Caucus' meeting with juvenile diabetes groups.

Hill said, "Kirk is a fervent believer in aggressive intervention with children (who have diabetes) in particular."